

elderly come together to recreate, share hobbies and common interests will certainly enhance their quality of life. For 50 years, this senior citizen group has provided opportunities to meet new friends, develop new interests and socialize with peers. For all their efforts, my fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Club 60, an organization that has been instrumental in meeting the social, physical and mental needs of our senior citizens.

TRIBUTE TO LAKE CITY, FLORIDA'S USO SHOW PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 57 AND AMERICAN LEGION POST 57, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to a wonderful group of men and women in Lake City, Florida who started their own local USO troupe called Reflections of the USO and are delighting audiences near and far. The 16 members that make up the two performing groups—called the Eloquence and the Sweethearts—are all members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 or the American Legion Post 57, Department of Florida. As part of their USO show, they wear spirited costumes from the 1950s and '60s and lip synch oldies but goodies once performed by entertainers with the United Service Organization (the USO) for our troops overseas.

In celebration of the USO's 60th birthday, the Lake City group performed a special Valentine's Day dance featuring memorable tunes like Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. They raised \$300 that night, which the group generously donated to the USO. Since then, the group has continued to entertain audiences throughout the community and state at Lake City Community College, the VA Hospital, the Shriners and a nursing home in Orlando. They've even performed during Elder Day at the state Capitol in Tallahassee.

I'm so proud of them, and their tremendous spirit, enthusiasm and patriotism. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the following individuals who are part of this unique mission to rekindle the memory of the USO and to keep its work alive: Ginger Fitzgerald; Pat Barribeau; Annette Burnham; Larry Burnham; Gaynell Burnham; Betty Jo Henderson; Wanda Procoplo; Sandy Reeves; Paula Schuck; Pat Priest; Barbara Reppert; Carol Underhill; Alberto Marriott; Mark Thomas; Philip Hearne; Randy Sweet and Marian Wyman.

I would also like to submit for the Record a history of the group called "A Small Flower" written by troupe member, Patricia Barribeau, who is also the Unit National Security Chairman of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57.

A SMALL FLOWER

Like a seed that blossoms into a beautiful flower, a small project within our Auxiliary blossomed beyond belief. The spirit of the holidays and the challenge to fill the dance hall for our Holly Ball was the beginning. Someone said, "Let's sing some songs when the band takes a break." Eyes rolled and heads wagged. I thought to myself, 'How ridiculous; I've got the voice of a frog.' But six members took the challenge, and little did they know what was in store.

The first undertaking was to decide exactly what we were going to do. This was the point when we discovered that no one could really sing. So we decided instead to choose a few select songs from the past that brought back memories and lip synch. Among the original songs were Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Soldier Boy and God Bless The USA. We wore red, white and blue dresses, shiny fabric with long gloves and high heels. Finally, opening night arrived and we were a hit.

We started planning for the Annual Sweetheart Dance soon after the first of the year. Enthusiasm was high so we decided to entertain at the dance. By now, there was a name for the group: The Eloquence. It was time to make the program a little longer so we added two new acts: The Sweethearts, performing Sincerely and Dedicated To The One I Love and Kate Smith with God Bless America. Four women make up The Sweethearts. They wear dark pants, white shirts, sequined red vests, cummerbunds and red bow ties. As for Kate Smith, she wears her signature black dress with a sweetheart neck and a long lovely silk handkerchief. She is truly a vision of her early days. Also, a member of the Sons of the American Legion joined the ranks in his army fatigues. He'd Join in Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Hang On Sloop.

The birth of the USO show came about in somewhat of a similar manner. Out of somewhere a voice said, "We look like a USO troupe!" and another said, "Let's build that up." We'll take up a collection for the USO. And before you know it, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam-era songs were being practiced and remembered. We gathered information about the USO from the Internet, the library and the encyclopedia, wrote a history of the USO that would serve as the opening to the show.

The night of the Sweetheart Dance arrived, and we had the jitters. So the District Chaplain had us take hands, bow our heads and ask God to help us through this without making fools of ourselves. We walked onto stage and to our surprise there were more than 350 people in the hall. Thankfully, the show went off without a hitch, and after all expenses, we made \$300, which we sent to the USO in the name of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Lake City, Florida.

Soon, we received numerous invitations to perform. We were asked to entertain for the residents of the Veterans Home in Lake City. We performed at a luncheon for senior citizens from five surrounding counties at the request of the local chapter of the Florida Association of Community Colleges. By now, the telephone calls were streaming in. Could we perform for the Shriners in May to raise more money for the USO? How about coming to the VA Hospital in April? Can you make it to some of the local festivals? Can you entertain at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Home? That would be another place where we can take up a collection for the USO. It seemed as if everyone knew about the American Legion Auxiliary USO presentation. We recognized veterans in the community at every program. The most outstanding request of all came when we were asked to appear in Tallahassee in the Rotunda at the Capitol on April 19.

Our local USO dance troupe of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Florida, is doing more than preserving an old pastime. We are rekindling a love of our country and recognizing our veterans for a job well done. We are also collecting donations for the USO so that they will be able to continue to make life a little better for our young men and women in the military who serve our country so dutifully here and around the world.

This project has truly turned into a very big red poppy.

TREATMENT FOR PROSTATE CANCER

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the RECORD a study published by Health Policy R&D. The study investigates the promise of the use of brachytherapy as a treatment for prostate cancer.

STUDY SUMMARY—BRACHYTHERAPY: A DESIRABLE AND COST EFFECTIVE OPTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF PROSTATE CANCER

Brachytherapy (pronounced "brake-e-ther-apy") is a cancer therapy that offers individuals with prostate cancer an effective treatment with lower risks of potentially devastating side effects than the leading clinical alternatives. Brachytherapy is a form of radiation treatment in which a radioactive isotope—or "seed"—is inserted directly into a patient's prostate. Nearly 200,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year.

This study has been prepared to educate individuals about brachytherapy with hard data and facts. It provides an overview of the science behind brachytherapy, its clinical impact, the relative cost advantages it offers and the improved quality of life it offers to prostate cancer survivors.

This study reveals that if just one in eight men diagnosed with prostate cancer chose brachytherapy over radical prostatectomy, our health care system would save nearly \$93 million annually in direct treatment costs, based on Medicare data. Society would save an additional \$46 million by avoiding expensive complications and lost work time.

Clinical Advantages of Brachytherapy—Lower Rates of Serious Side Effects: Typically a 45-minute outpatient procedure, brachytherapy treats early-stage prostate cancer as well as or better than the alternatives of radical prostatectomy (surgical excision of the prostate) and external beam radiation. In addition, complications occur less frequently in brachytherapy than with radical prostatectomy (still the most common treatment), including—lower risks of erectile dysfunction (also known as impotence), lower risks of urinary incontinence, lower risks of other significant complications, including surgical mortality.

Cost-Effectiveness of Brachytherapy: Brachytherapy offers not only clinically effective treatment, but also cost-effective treatment. Specifically, brachytherapy offers two tiers of cost savings: lower direct treatment costs than radical prostatectomy and lower indirect costs for treatment and mitigation of serious complications.

This study considers the costs that could be avoided annually if just one in eight men of the nearly 200,000 men annually diagnosed with prostate cancer chose brachytherapy over the most common alternative: surgical removal of the prostate. The resulting savings breaks down as follows: \$93 million in direct savings for direct treatment costs, \$21.3 million in treatment costs for erectile dysfunction, \$14.6 million in costs to address urinary incontinence, \$25 million for lost productivity.

The assumptions in this study are conservative. The estimate of savings due to brachytherapy would be even higher if additional considerations were quantified, such